

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed on December 21, 2006 in the above-referenced application, Applicant respectfully requests amendment of the above-identified application in the manner identified above and that the patent be granted in view of the arguments presented. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Present Status of Application

Claims 1 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ding (US Patent No. 6,430,663). Claims 2-4, 11-13, 15-17 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ding in view of Jacobs (US Patent No. 6,430,663). Claims 5-10 and 18-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this paper, claim 1 is amended to include all of the limitations claim 5, while claim 14 is amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 18. Claims 5 and 18 are canceled. Thus, on entry of this amendment, claims 1-4, 6-17, and 19-26 remain in the application.

Insofar as the Examiner indicated that claims 5 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, it is Applicant's belief that claims 1 and 14 are now in condition for allowance. Furthermore, given that claims 2-4, 6-14, 15-17, and 19-26 depend either directly or indirectly from one of claims 1 and 14, it is Applicant's belief that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

The Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests so. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. **502447**. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of

Appl. No. 10/796,476
Examiner: SURYAWANSHI, SURESH, Art Unit 2115
In response to the Office Action dated December 21, 2006

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the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to Deposit Account No. **502447**.

Respectfully submitted,

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